

# ATC's Federal Executive Board Winners

**Gold award winners:**

*Thea Blunt-Henderson*, Outstanding Professional (Technical, Scientific and Program Support)

*Richard Kimball*, Outstanding Para-Professional (Technical, Scientific and Program Support)

*Marti Lovely*, Outstanding Para-Professional (Administrative/Management Analyst)

*Jim Fasig*, Distinguished Public Service Career

**Silver award winners:**

*Lamar Carter*, Professional (Administrative, Management and Specialist)

*Harry Cunningham*, Outstanding Supervisor (Grades 13 and above)



(left to right) Jim Fasig, Frank Fratrik, Thea Blunt-Henderson, Richard Kimball, Harry Cunningham, Marti Lovely, MaryEllen Whiting. Not pictured: Lamar Carter

*MaryEllen Whiting*, Professional (Administrative/Management Assistant)

**Bronze award winner:**

*Frank Fratrik*, Rookie of the Year (Professional)

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# ATC Globe

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## Rooney Takes Command of ATC





# Introduction of the New ATC Commander

by Col. John P. Rooney, Commander, Aberdeen Test Center

My first few months in command at ATC have been exciting ones. I've had the opportunity to meet many ATC employees on the range. They have confirmed what I already knew; that this is an amazing command with a great deal of talent. I am impressed with the professionalism and technical expertise that the workforce possesses.

There continues to be a number of tests at ATC in direct support of the war effort that are truly making a difference for our

Soldiers. The High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) Fire Suppression Test, the HMMWV Safety Tests, the high temperature 120-mm ammo test, the Outer Tactical Vest tests, the ongoing tactical wheeled vehicle armor tests, and deployment of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) Instrumentation and Stryker teams to Kuwait in support of the war effort; to name just a few.

In addition, as we prepare for the future, ATC will support the



Col. John P. Rooney

Program Manager Unit of Action (PM UA) with an important demonstration that will give senior leaders a glimpse into that future.

Many ATC employees have worked very hard to bring the Automotive Technology Evaluation Facility (ATEF), a 4.5 mile multi-surface, multi-lane test track capable of testing all known/projected wheeled and tracked vehicles, much closer to reality. This capability is

essential as we prepare to support the Army as it resets the tactical wheeled vehicle fleet for the next 15-20 years.

There are also numerous other areas where ATC continues to lead the way throughout the Army Test and Evaluation Command (ATEC). Some of these capabilities include budget execution, instrumentation development, software development in support of testing, Commander's

Critical Information Reporting (CCIR) process, and countless other areas.

ATC's goal is "excellence in testing" and I believe we are accomplishing that as we provide the Army and Department of Defense, as well as private industry, with critical support.

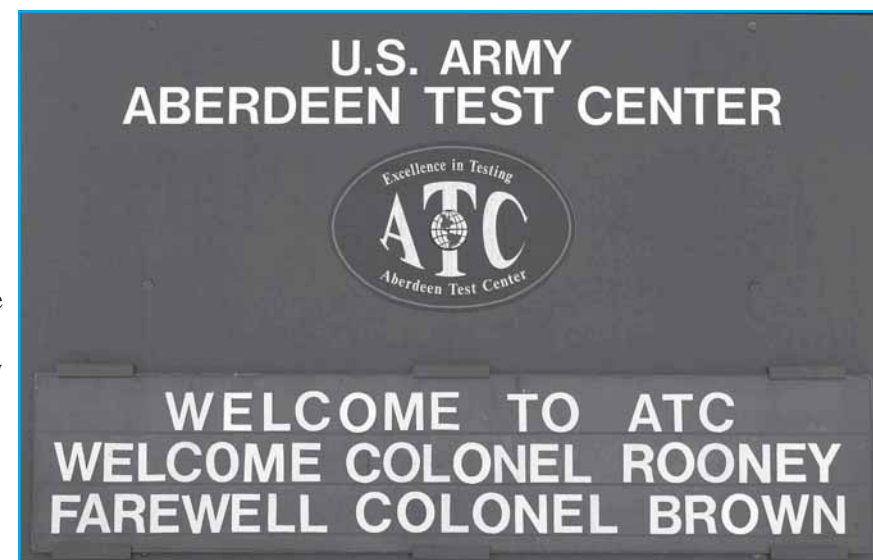
I look forward to meeting many of you, and providing you with the very best in testing! ●

# Col. John P. Rooney Assumes Command of Aberdeen Test Center

On June 21, 2005, Col. John P. Rooney assumed command of ATC, accepting the organizational colors from Col. Mary K. Brown, outgoing commander, in a Change of Command and retirement ceremony held along ATC's Main Front.

"We are here to conduct a long-standing Army tradition – passing the guidon from one commander to another," said Brig. Gen. Michael Combest, commander of the Developmental Test Command (DTC) and host for the ceremony. "It is an important occasion because it formally marks the closing of one chapter of this outstanding organization, Aberdeen Test Center, and opens another. It also allows us an opportunity to recognize the contributions of two great Soldiers."

To begin the ceremony, Chaplain (Capt.) Yun Kim gave the invocation. Following the invocation, two of ATC's Soldiers presented Mrs. Mary Cahill, Brown's mother, with



a bouquet of flowers as an expression of Brown's gratitude for her mother's love and support over the years. Rooney's wife, Mrs. Kathleen Rooney, was presented with a bouquet of yellow roses welcoming her to the ATC family.

The official party, consisting of Combest, Brown and Rooney, arrived in an M998 High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle (HMMWV) equipped with an Army Research Laboratory add-on-armor kit.

Following an 11-gun salute by the salute battery from the US Army

Mechanical Maintenance School, and rendition of honors and the national anthem by the 389<sup>th</sup> Army Band, Sergeant First Class Richard Morgan, the senior enlisted Soldier and keeper of the colors, passed them to Brown for the last time. Brown then passed them to Combest, symbol-

izing the relinquishment of command responsibility. Combest passed the colors to Rooney, who in accepting them, accepted responsibility for mission accomplishment and the welfare of his Soldiers, civilians, and family members. Rooney then entrusted the colors back to Morgan.

When the change of command was complete, Combest presented Brown with her retirement certificate, signed by Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker, United States Army Chief of Staff, and a certificate of

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*COVER PHOTO: Col. John P. Rooney, left, incoming commander of the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, accepts the organizational colors from BG Michael Combest, commander of the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command.*

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Commander COL John P. Rooney  
Editor Vonnie Hughey

Technical Director John R. Wallace  
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# Rooney Assumes Command as Brown Bids Farewell

From left, **Col. Mary K. Brown**, Aberdeen Test Center outgoing commander; **Brig. Gen. Michael Combest**, commander of the Army Developmental Test Command; and **Col. John P. Rooney**, Aberdeen Test Center incoming commander; salute the colors presented during the ATC change of command ceremony, Jun. 21.



**Col. Mary K. Brown**, right, outgoing ATC commander, relinquishes the organizational colors to **Brig. Gen. Michael Combest**, commander of the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command during change of command ceremonies. Col. John P. Rooney, incoming ATC commander, observes the passing of the flag.

**Col. John P. Rooney**, left, accepts the organizational colors from **Brig. Gen. Michael Combest**, commander of the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command, during change of command ceremonies.



*Aberdeen Test Center officially transferred leadership Tuesday, June 21, 2005 during an outdoor change of command ceremony held in front of Barricade 2 on ATC's main front. Col. John P. Rooney became the 26<sup>th</sup> commander of Aberdeen Test Center.*



**Col. Mary K. Brown** accepts her Retirement certificate from **Brig. Gen. Michael Combest**, commander of the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command.

**Col. Mary K. Brown**, outgoing ATC commander, delivers her farewell speech to ATC employees and guests during the change of command ceremonies.



**Col. John P. Rooney** delivers a speech accepting command of the U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center.



Dignitaries and distinguished guests watch the parade of vehicles and firing demonstration during the change of command ceremonies.



**Col. and Mrs. Rooney** accept congratulations after the change of command ceremony.





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appreciation signed by President George Bush. Brown also received the Legion of Merit award, signed by Brig. Gen. (P) James R. Myles, Army Test and Evaluation Command commander, for exceptionally meritorious service during her career.

Brown's husband, Brig. Gen. Mark Brown, received a certificate of appreciation signed by Schoomaker, for his "unselfish, faithful and devoted service" and "unfailing support and understanding."

The ceremony also included a parade of vehicles and firing demonstration showcasing just a few of the more than 4,000 tests ATC conducted under Brown's command. Focusing on the vehicles and equipment being used by Soldiers in the current war, the parade included the Abrams M1A2 System Enhance-

ment Package, the Bradley Fighting Vehicle System A2, howitzers, several Stryker variants, and the M1151P1 HMMWV. The M1151P1 HMMWV is the first HMMWV off the production line with an integrated armor production package. While not currently fielded, it is anticipated that the M1151P1 HMMWV will be available for the war effort later this year.

The firing demonstration featured the Common Remotely Operated Weapons Station, the Remote Weapon Station, a Bradley Fighting Vehicle System A3 and the Stryker Mobile Gun System.

Rooney comes to ATC from DTC, where he was Chief of Staff.

"I am proud to join the ranks of Aberdeen Test Center," he said. "During the past two years I've been able to witness first hand the kind of difference you make every day for our Soldiers. It's

because of your efforts that American lives are being saved on the battlefield, even as we speak."

Brown, ATC's 25<sup>th</sup> commander and first female commander, will retire in October after a career that spanned over 28 years.

"As a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant attending the Ordnance Basic Course here at Aberdeen, I wondered, with my peers, what mysterious testing those people behind the fence were doing. In my wildest dreams I never thought that I would one day come back to Aberdeen and command this great organization," Brown said. "I have absolutely had the best four years of my career right here."

During the four years Brown was commander, more than half a billion dollars were spent for tests and test support, 1.25 million miles were driven and more than 5 million rounds were fired, including 25 thousand large caliber. ●

## Col. John P. Rooney

Rooney was born in Alabama and lived throughout the U.S. while growing up in a military family. He was commissioned in 1978 after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy.

His military education includes the Field Artillery Officer Basic and Advanced courses; the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College; and the U.S. Army War College.

Rooney's past assignments include chief of staff for Developmental Test Command; deputy chief of staff for operations for Army Test and Evaluation Command; director of the Fire Support Evaluation Directorate for U.S. Army Evaluation Center; commander of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 7<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery; assistant deputy director for Operations, National Military Command Center; Battalion Operations Officer for 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 11<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery; Assistant Professor of Military Science at the University of Miami; and he completed a tour in Alaska where he was assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 37<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery at Fort Richardson, as the Battalion Adjutant before assuming command of Battery B, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 37<sup>th</sup> Field.

Article provided by **Susan Hagan**, ATSS, ATC Public Affairs Liaison.

## Shallow Water Standardized Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Technology Demonstration Site

ATC is host to the Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG) Shallow Water Standardized UXO Technology Demonstration Site. The site which held its first demonstration on July 19, 2005 was constructed to support a variety of Environmental Technology Programs to include the U.S. Army Environmental Quality Technology Program (EQT), Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program (SERDP) and the Environmental Security Technology Certification Program (ESTCP).

The establishment of the APG Shallow Water Standardized UXO Technology Demonstration Site is an example of the Department of Defense's (DoD) continuing commitment to range sustainability and environmental compliance. The site is designed to independently test and compare the performance of current UXO detection sensors and systems. It also provides a developmental area for private industry and academia interested in improving and testing existing or emerging shallow water UXO sensors.

The site is constructed to simulate the many UXO contaminated sites requiring cleanup that contain



wetlands, ponds, lakes and tidal areas with a water depth of 10 feet or less. It is estimated that DoD wide there are shallow water areas covering approximately 202,000 acres. Detecting and discriminating unknown objects through water and sediment provides challenges for traditional magnetometers and electromagnetic sensors and opens the door for other technologies such as sonar-based and ground-penetrating radar systems.

The test site contains five distinct areas: a calibration grid, a blind test grid, an open water area, a littoral area, and a deeper water area. The water level of the pond can be mechanically altered to depths between 1- to 10-feet to meet unique test challenges. Depending on the

depth, the test area ranges in size between 3.7 and 6.9 acres.

A data reduction program provides an automated system for scoring sensor and system performance in both the response and discrimination stages. Performance reports are posted on the program's Web site, [www.uxotestsites.org](http://www.uxotestsites.org), allowing free

access to testing and demonstration results.

The Standardized UXO Technology Demonstration Sites Program is a multi-agency undertaking coordinated by the U.S. Army Environmental Center. The program is funded and supported by the SERDP, ESTCP, and EQT programs. ATC and the U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center provide programmatic support. Competitive funding is available to demonstrate technologies at the site or prospective users may elect to pay for site usage themselves.

For more information please contact the program test director and site manager, Mr. Gary Rowe at 410-278-4729 or [Gary.Rowe@atc.army.mil](mailto:Gary.Rowe@atc.army.mil). ●